

2006 ELECTION

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Preserve equality; pursue excellence.

This is my vision for public education in Hawaii, shaped by my experience as a teacher, student and parent.

Since I began teaching in 1995, I have taught at public, private and charter schools. I have taught elementary, middle and high school students, as well as adults. As a member of Teach for America, I experienced first hand the impact that teachers can have, when they are treated and trained as competent professionals. I received a teaching credential from the University of Hawaii, and taught at McKinley High School and Punahou. I believe that empowering dedicated teachers is central to any plan for improving Hawaii's schools.

I'm pursuing a doctorate in educational administration and a law degree. At Richardson Law School, I've been involved in a number of education-related projects including helping to revise the first year research and writing curriculum, taking education law class, and serving on the student bar association curriculum committee. My academic background is well suited to the task of educational reform, which should be guided by equal parts scholarship and common sense.

My daughter enters first grade at Manoa Elementary School this fall. Like all parents, my wife and I want what is best for her. For too long, many parents have seen private schools as the only choice for their children, while others, because of money, have had no choice at all. I firmly believe that Hawaii public schools can and must offer an excellent education to all students.